BLACKHAWK HILLS

Resource Conservation and Development

Report to Sponsors

Following are projects or events that the RC&D is presently involved in:

New Office Space – Blackhawk Hills RC&D has moved into their new office space. The new address is 102 East Route 30, Suite 3, Rock Falls, IL. The new phone system has not been installed yet. To reach the RC&D via telephone you can call 815-625-3417.

Broadband - Blackhawk Hills RC&D has partnered with Northern Illinois University and is applying for a $35M grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to construct broadband infrastructure in the six counties of Northwest Illinois. Blackhawk Hills and NIU have worked very hard and intend to make the August 14th deadline for phase one of the Recovery Broadband grant process.

EDA Planning Grant – Blackhawk Hills received a $61,817 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration. The grant will establish an economic development planning framework, process and strategy that supports capital investment and job creation in the region.

Milledgeville EDA Grant – The Village of Milledgeville was awarded $616,441 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce-Economic Development Administration. The funds will allow Milledgeville to construct roadways, water, sewer, and storm detention infrastructure for a new industrial park. Blackhawk Hills RC&D provided technical support to this project.

August 2009

102 East Route 30, Suite 3 • Rock Falls, IL 61071 • Phone: 815-625-3417 • Fax: 815-625-3831 • URL: www.blackhawkhills.com

dceo Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Pat Quinn
Governor

Warren Ribley
Director

August 11, 2009

Dr. William Tonne, President
Blackhawk Hills RC & D
401 Main Street
Savanna, Il 61074-0262

Dear Dr. Tonne:

The State of Illinois recognizes the need to bring world class broadband to every community. As part of this effort, the Illinois Broadband Deployment Program provides grants and loans to expand and strengthen broadband network infrastructure, health information technology, distance learning, and public safety. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) is pleased to commit $5,000,000 for the Blackhawk Hills Fiber Optic System Project based on the following conditions.

- State funding is contingent upon your federal application being approved and the execution of a grant agreement with DCEO. Please note that this commitment letter does not constitute an enforceable agreement and does not confer any property, equitable or legal rights.

- State funding commitments are valid for projects that are awarded federal funding under the July 1, 2009 Notice of Funding Availability for the Broadband Initiatives Program and Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (application due August 14, 2009).

- State financial commitments will be made based on the information provided in the state application. Any significant change to the project scope of work and budget must be agreed upon by DCEO for the state funding commitment to remain valid.

- Upon the approval of the federal broadband proposal, please contact DCEO regarding a state grant agreement that will include the project scope of work and budget. Please also note that issuance of state matching funds is contingent on the cash available in the Build Illinois Bond Fund and valid state appropriations.

As Illinois' lead economic development agency, DCEO recognizes the potential of this program to support economic growth for the citizens of Illinois and the state's economy. I look forward to seeing your project move forward in Illinois and wish you the best as this project proceeds through the federal application process. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Warren Ribley

Warren Ribley
Director